

\* STROBEL (B.B.)

An experimental enquiry

xxxx ARALIA SPINOSA xxxx



American Theses



AN  
EXPERIMENTAL ENQUIRY

INTO THE

**MEDICAL PROPERTIES**

OF THE

*R. Wayne M. D.*  
**ARALIA SPINOSA,**

OR, PRICKLY ASH.

PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE

**MEDICAL COLLEGE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

AT AN EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF

**Doctor of Medicine.**

**D. B. STROBEL, M. D.**

—OTHERS BY THE HAND

SHE LED O'ER VALES AND MOUNTAINS, TO EXPLORE  
WHAT HEALING VIRTUE SWELLS THE TENDER VEINS  
OF HERBS AND FLOWERS; OR WHAT THE BEAMS OF MORN  
DRAW FORTH, DISTILLING FROM THE CLIFTED RIND  
IN BALMY TEARS.

*To Pleasures of Imagination.*

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## DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on the twenty-fifth day of July, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six, and in the Fifty-first year of the Independence of the United States of America, B. B. STROBEL, M. D. of said district, has deposited in this office, the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as author and proprietor, in the words following, to wit:

An experimental enquiry into the Medical properties of the  
ARALIA SPINOSA, or, *Prickly Ash*. Presented to the Faculty  
of the Medical College of South Carolina, at an examination  
for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. By B. B. STROBEL,  
M. D.

Others by the hand  
She led o'er vales and mountains, to explore  
What healing virtue swells the tender veins  
Of herbs and flowers ; or what the beams  
Draw forth, distilling from the clefted rind  
In balmy tears. *The Pleasure*

In conformity with the Act of Congress of the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1802, for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such Copies, during the times therein mentioned, and also an Act entitled "An Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such Copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof, to the arts of Designing, Engraving, and Etching Historical and other Prints."

JAMES JERVEY,  
*District Clerk South Carolina District.*

**TO STEPHEN ELLIOTT, ESQ. L. L. D.**

*Professor of Natural History and Botany, in the MEDICAL COLLEGE  
of South Carolina.*

WHILE the world at large are tendering you that meed  
of reputation, justly due to your acquirements; deign, Sir,  
to accept this humble, though sincere tribute of my re-  
spect, for your talents and public character, which are only  
exceeded by your private virtues.

*Yours, Respectfully,*

**THE AUTHOR.**

TO STEPHEN ELLIOT, M.D., F.R.S.

Presented by Special License and Order of the Society of Antiquaries

of North Carolina

It was the world at large and therefore for the good  
of mankind, justly due to your acquaintance with the  
to accept this humble, though sincere tribute of my re-  
spect for your talents and public character, which are only

expressed in your private virtues.

Yours, Respectfully,

THE AUTHOR.



**TO JAMES RAMSAY, M. D.**

*Professor of Surgery in the MEDICAL COLLEGE of South  
Carolina.*

WITH great respect for your talents and private character,  
I tender you this production as a testimony of my gratitude for your kindness and attention, while we were connected together as Preceptor and Student.

**THE AUTHOR.**





## **TO ROBERT L. STEWART.**

THOUGH it may not be your destiny to lead your country's armies to battle, or to wield a magic sceptre o'er the world of letters—Yet in the more humble, though equally honorable station of a private individual, you have always merited the confidence of your fellow-citizens.—To whom can I offer with more heart-felt pleasure, a public testimony of my regard, than to the well-tried friend who deserted me not in the hour of difficulty : Accept then my best wishes for your prosperity and happiness.

THE AUTHOR



Wayne M. S.

## EXPERIMENTAL ENQUIRY, &C.

NOTWITHSTANDING the experience of all mankind tends to prove the truth of the proverb, "That flesh is grass, and the life of man as the flower of the field;" the *principle of life*, (however weak the struggle,) is continually antagonizing decay; is continually at war with the elements by which it is surrounded, seizing upon, and converting to its own uses, and rendering them subservient to the maintenance of its existence.

Proportionate therefore with the number of wants to which an organised body is subjected, are its abilities for overcoming those wants, and of appropriating other beings and objects to its own support and nutriment.—Man, for this reason, maintains a superiority over the rest of the Creation; prompted by his desire of happiness, and urged into action by his numerous wants, his ingenuity has compelled into his service almost every being and object with which he is connected; either as a means of contributing to his pleasures, or of counter-acting his difficulties. And this is the true source of all moral and intellectual improvement: "necessity is the



"mother of invention." Had man continued in his original state of happiness, he would have drank celestial enjoyment from a never-ending stream; having no wants to gratify, his active and enquiring mind could have found no object upon which to exercise itself. But mark the result—no sooner is he cut off from that source of pleasure, than his fertile imagination leads him to other fountains of happiness; the aspirations of hope beam upon his benighted soul, and his discriminating genius enables him to distinguish the baneful from the nutritive, the hurtful from the innocent; until, at length, by progressive steps, he has acquired a race, in which, if not completely happy, he may, at least, by industry, acquire every thing requisite to constitute him so.

The desire of knowledge was the cause of man's first fall, and on the acquisition of that knowledge, rest his hopes of present and future happiness; every advancement therefore in knowledge and science, must add to the convenience and happiness of the human race. I deduce from hence—that it is the duty of every man, either by the acquisition of knowledge, to add to the stock of human enjoyment, or, by his enquiries, to lead to results which may ward off some of the ills to which humanity is subjected. And this duty is, in an especial manner obligatory upon the Medical Practitioner, to whose skill and care are confided the lives and health of the public. "Of all the ills which mortal flesh is heir to," none is more dreaded than death. "To lie in cold obstruction and to rot, this sensible warm flesh to become a kneaded clod," is an event, the contempla-

tion of which mars all our dreams of pleasure ; “ the most oppressed, weary life is a *paradise* to what we *think* of death.” Is not this reflection calculated to call into action all the exertions of the philanthropist to avert this dreaded evil, and to lengthen the duration of human life ; but “ alas, there is a point by nature fixed, whence “life must downward tend,” when the human frame enervated and enfeebled by age and the continued inroad of destructive elements, sinks without a struggle into the arms of death. Let not however, this consideration discourage us, for we have *many* opportunities of *saving* life ; and, though all our exertions should eventuate only in the relief of pain, we shall have gained much. We shall be able to render life comfortable, to light up a smile in the aspect of woe, and to smooth the rugged passage to the tomb.

Towards the accomplishment of these desirable ends, we have in our hands many valuable articles which, by the ingenuity of man, have been converted into medicaments. Much has been done, but more remains to do. The field is still wide, and there is ample room for improvement. Would it not on our parts be highly criminal to remain idle when by our exertions so much might be done in ameliorating the condition of humanity?

From what has been stated, my design in presenting to your view the following experiments on the *Aralia Spino*-*sa* will be readily comprehended : it is that of bringing into notice a native article, which in addition to its ease of access, is possessed of many sanative virtues, and with proper discrimination, may be made a means of alleviating much pain, if not of saving life. I have

brought my offering to the shrine of improvement, and however humble the offer, trust that it will meet your consideration.

Among the class PENTAGYNIA of ELLIOTT's Botany,\* may be found the following description of the *Aralia Spinosa* :—

**ARALIA.** GEN. PL. 525.—Umbels with a small involucre. *Calyx* 5 toothed, superior. *Corolla* 5 petalled. *Berry* 5 seeded.

1. SPINOSA.—Arborescent; stem and leaves prickly; panicle much branched, umbels racemose.

Sp. pl. 1. p. 1520. Walt. p. 117. Mich. 1. p. 186. Pursh, 1. p. 209.

*Root* perennial; shooting up many straight, shrubby, unbranching stems naked and prickly (not spinous) below, with the leaves crowded at the summit of the stems, like the palm trees. *Leaves* bipinnate; leaflets ovate, acuminate, slightly crenate, glaucous underneath, and somewhat pubescent; common petioles 2—3 feet long, jointed, channelled, sometimes prickly. *Panicles* terminal, very large, branches terminating in small umbels or fascicles 15—20 calyx. *Filaments* longer than the petals. *Anthers* incumbent, white. *Germ* depressed. *Styles* 5, short. *Stigmas* obtuse, connivent.

Grows in the richest soils, wherever they are not frequently inundated.

Flowers, June—August.

*Prickly Ash.*

The article is usually denominated Hercules Club, Prickly Ash, &c., and among the common people, is held in high repute as a cure for chronic Rheumatism of a supposed syphilitic origin.

\* See Elliott's Botany, Vol. 1, page 372.



It is also asserted, upon very reputable authority, to be serviceable by its emetic operation, in curing the bite of the rattle-snake; and I believe it entitled to more credit than most articles in common use, for effecting that purpose. In one of the cases in which it was tried, it was stated, that it produced a profuse ptyalism; this however, I am inclined, for two reasons, to attribute rather to some specific effect of the poison, than to the operation of the remedy. One is, because in my hands, the article has never exhibited any sialagogue operation; the other, that I have seen a number of animals struck by the rattle-snake, and in every instance, a profuse salivation succeeded. My experiments have led me to the following conclusions, as respects the properties of the article: That by modifying the form and dose, it will exhibit a cathartic, emetic, diaphoretic and sedative operation; and that possessing these various qualities, it is capable of answering many important indications. In order to give some perspicuity to my views, I shall arrange my experiments under two heads, viz: Its operation on the body in health, and in the second place, of its application to the cure of disease.

*And first, of its cathartic operation.*—I gave an individual, G. C—, about ʒj. of the bark of the root (dried and powdered) at 10 o'clock, A. M. and in an hour repeated the dose; it operated on his bowels six or eight times with very similar effect to a dose of jalap.

I gave another healthy individual, ʒss. of the same, which operated freely as a cathartic, emptying the bow-

els with a considerable discharge of mucous and watery stools mixed with bile.

I administered to M—, 3ss. of the above; its first effect was powerfully diaphoretic, after which it operated freely on his bowels, inducing an evacuation of their contents, which was followed by a copious discharge of bilious stools. A gum resinous extract, which is decidedly cathartic, may be obtained by boiling the root in water.

*Second, of its emetic operation.*—In several instances, I administered a watery solution made by putting 3jj. of the bark (recently obtained) into a pint of water; this was boiled down to half a pint, and divided into three doses, one of which was given every 15 minutes. *Pro. re. nata.* I generally succeeded with two doses, in effecting its emetic operation four or five times; it operated with much ease to the individual, and in this respect, resembled the ipecac.\*

*Thirdly, as an evidence of its diaphoretic and sedative operation,* I give the following cases:

On the 5th day of August, I took 3j. of the alcoholic tincture at 11 o'clock, which was immediately followed by a sense of lassitude and debility; this was succeeded by a sinking of the pulse and profuse perspiration, the latter was so excessive that I was compelled to send home for dry clothes; the state of the pulse was as follows:

At	11 o'clock,	pulse at 84,	took 3j.
At 10 min. past 11	“	“	80,
At 15 min. past 11	“	“	76,
At 30 min. past 11	“	“	70, took 3j.

Its active properties appear to be much weakened by drying.

At 45 min. past 11 o'clock,	pulse at	68,
At 50 min. past 11	" "	63,
At 12	" "	62,
At 15 min. past 12	" "	63,
At 30 min. past 12	" "	63,
At 50 min. past 12	" "	65,
At 1	" "	65.

About this time I felt so exhausted and drowsy, that I was compelled to lie down, and fell asleep in a few minutes. After having slept about an hour, I awoke with a prodigious appetite, pulse a little below the natural standard, and perspiration still continuing. I dined very heartily, and felt no way unusual until on the morning of the 6th, when I discovered that my whole body was covered with small bumps, somewhat like mosquito bites, which lasted me for a week or ten days. It will be seen by a reference to the above, that the pulse sank twenty-two strokes in one hour, and that the action upon the surface was very powerful.

August 6, gave B. M. 3jj. of the saturated tincture ; in ten minutes after taking he experienced a sensation of drowsiness, burning in the face, weakness, slight nausea, and sinking of the pulse ; this was succeeded by a profuse perspiration. The pulse during this experiment, was as follows :

At 18 min. past 12 o'clock,	pulse at	82, took 3j.
At 24 min. past 12	" "	78, took 3j.
At 30 min. past 12	" "	70,
At 40 min. past 12	" "	68,
At 50 min. past 12	" "	66,



At	1 o'clock,	pulse at 65,
At 15 min. past	1 " "	62,
At 30 min. past	1 " "	61,
At 40 min. past	1 " "	60,
At	2 " "	58.

After this the pulse gradually rose to its natural standard, the perspiration commenced in the palms of the hands, and gradually extended over the whole body.

August 5, administered to G—, 5j.-ss. of the tincture ; he immediately complained of a heaviness, drowsy feeling, a sense of heat all over the body ; slight nausea, burning in the face and hands, and evident sinking of the pulse ; a profuse perspiration followed.

Administered to C—, on the 8th day of August, 3jj. of the same, at a dose ; a sense of languor immediately ensued, accompanied by a sensation of heat and itching over the whole body, nausea, sinking of the pulse, a profuse perspiration now commenced which was so abundant in the palms of the hand, as to give them an appearance similar to what would have resulted from holding them over steam. All of these symptoms gradually subsided.

I was next induced to try the effect of the article in substance with a view to its sedative and diaphoretic operation, and administered to D—, a pill containing 4 grs. ; the only sensible effect of which was, as a diaphoretic, and on the pulse as follows :

At 18 min. past 12 o'clock,	pulse at 72,	took 4 grs.
At 30 min. past 12 " "	60,	
At 40 min. past 12 " "	58,	

At 2 o'clock, pulse at 57,

At 40 min. past 2 " " 54.

Having by these means satisfied myself of the properties of the article, I next proceeded to apply the result of my experiments to the cure of disease, which brings me to the second head, under which I propose to treat of it.

*Its application to the cure of disease.*—I have not applied its cathartic operation to any extent, believing that as we are already in possession of so many valuable substances of that class, it would be almost superfluous to attempt the introduction of any new article to supplant them. It may however be well to notice the fact, in order that persons residing in country situations, and not having an easy access to medicine, for want of a better, might resort to this. I will state the two following cases in proof of its efficacy.

Milligan, a patient laboring under paralysis of the extremities, being rather costive, I gave him 3ss. of the powder at 10 o'clock. and repeated it in an hour; its first effect was powerfully diaphoretic, after which it operated as a cathartic four or five times, with relief to the individual; this cannot be considered a fair test of the operation of the article, the patient laboring under a diminution of nervous energy which rendered him in a measure, insusceptible to the operation of medicine.

Smith, a patient in the alms-house, had labored for months under a rheumatic affection of the scalp. Almost every plan of treatment had been resorted to, in

vain. The patient <sup>female</sup> at this being affected with gastric disorder, I was induced to give him 25 grs. of the powder. It proved powerfully cathartic, brought on a diarrhoea which lasted three or four days, and resulted in relieving the patient so much that he was enabled to leave the house and go to business.

Whether the relief here afforded, depended on any specific effect of the article, or is attributable simply to the violent catharsis which it created, I cannot pretend to say.

Of its emetic properties, I have more to say, believing it in this respect to take the precedence of any native article as yet discovered; in its operation it is mild and gentle, having considerable tendency to the surface, while at the same time it stimulates the peristaltic motion of the bowels.

In country practice it is commonly resorted to in the cure of Intermittent fever, and I am acquainted with a very intelligent gentleman who uses no other evacuant in the treatment of that obstinate complaint in his family. In the first stages of the disease, when the tongue is furred, gastric distress great, with vomiting of bilious matter, given at the commencement of the cold stage, it speedily evacuates the vitiated contents of the stomach, cuts short the cold stage, produces a determination to the surface, which eventuates in a free diaphoresis; it gives a new impulse to the circulation, by which the blood is determined from the internal organs, and at the same time, displays a cathartic operation on the bowels, and prepares the way for the use of Bark, and other tonics.

In the chronic forms of the disease, (kept up by habit)



given for a succession of days, might it not, through the strong influence which it exercises on the system, be highly serviceable in breaking up the chain of wrong associations, which is so essential to the existence of the disease, while at the same time, we receive the benefits resulting from its evacuant operation?

My experience in this disease, from want of opportunity, is limited. I have however, administered it in several other forms of disease, where indicated, and have been pleased with the action of the medicine.

I administered to a female attacked with nervous head-ache, from having eaten crude and indigestible articles of diet, the following dose ʒj. of the recent bark of the root, which was put into a pint of water and boiled to half a pint, and divided into three parts, one every ten minutes; the second dose operated freely, evacuating the contents of the stomach with a free discharge of bile, and effectually relieved the patient.

An individual was committed to my care, affected with *Mania a Potu*; from the great gastric distress under which he labored, I was induced to give him the same dose as above, and with like good effect;—the patient rapidly recovered on the administration of the usual stimuli.

In addition to what I have stated, and in confirmation of the value of the article, it is asserted by Dr. McBride, that a watery infusion of the bark of the root, is both emetic and cathartic, and is probably to be preferred to any emetic as yet discovered among our native plants.

In the third place, I am to speak of its sedative and diaphoretic operation; and first, of its efficacy in the cure of Rheumatism; previous however, to treating of its practical application, and as a means of explaining the rationale of its operation, I shall briefly state my views in respect to the disease.

“Gout and Rheumatism are so nearly allied, in their more common forms as to be distinguished with considerable difficulty; and in many instances, rather by the collateral circumstances, temperament, period of life, obvious or unobvious cause, antecedent affliction, or health of the digestive function than from the actual symptoms themselves.”\* Stoll maintains that they are varieties of the same disease. Burgius, that they are convertible affections; the close analogy between the two diseases, has been the occasion of much difficulty in forming a correct diagnosis of them; and at the same time, has been productive of error in the classification of Rheumatism; while some authors have placed it among the diseases of the nervous and vascular systems, others, and among them the advocates of the doctrine of Broussais, have contended that it is essentially the same disease as Gout,† located in the alimentary canal.—

\* Good's Study, vol. 2, p. 325.

† Ces différences constituent plusieurs nuances d'arthrite dont les auteurs ont fait plusieurs maladies auxquelles ils n'ont pas reconnu la même nature, et qu'ils ont désignées sous des dénominations diverses. Quand la phlegmasie n'affecte qu'une grande articulation, ou qu'elle commence par plusieurs petites à la fois, ils l'ont appelée *rhumatisme articulaire*; quand elle débute par une petite articulation, qu'elle s'y borne, ou qu'elle s'étend ensuite à plusieurs, ils l'ont nommée *goutte*; et ils ont ensuite admis plusieurs variétés de cette dernière, suivant les circonstances dont elle s'accompagne.

While the former seem to forget that close sympathy which exists between distant portions of the human body, the latter have lost sight of the various kinds and degrees of inflammation to which similar tissues are liable, though they have undoubtedly fixed on the true seat of the disease in locating it in the alimentary canal.

Rheumatism, though it is *essentially* different from Gout, may in the majority of cases, be referred to some *peculiar* morbid derangement, existing either in the alimentary canal, or some portion of the digestive organs, more especially of the liver. I have seen more than one case of Rheumatism originated by a disordered secretion of the liver. Whether the derangement of the liver was subsequent to that of the alimentary canal, or in what relation they stand as cause and effect, I am not prepared to say. In order to test the validity of these opinions, let us for a moment, examine into the symptoms which characterise Rheumatism, and do they not all indicate a disordered state of the digestive function; and does not this disordered state and its symptoms, frequently *precede* the local affection;\* and may we not rationally infer from this that they are associated together as cause and effect. We are all aware of the close sympathy existing between the mucous membrane, of the alimentary canal,

Il est donc évident que les causes et le siège des irritations articulaires ne peuvent pas apporter de différences dans la nature de la maladie, mais seulement dans ses formes.

*Nouvelle Doctrine Médicale, par J. M. A. Goupil.*

\* Sometimes the pains take the precedence of the fever; but in other cases the fever appears first, and the local affection does not discover itself until a few days after — *Good's Study, vol. 2, p. 327.*

Sometimes the pyrexia is formed before any pains are perceived. — *Galen's Practice, vol. 1, p. 163.*



and the surface; the sympathy which exists between irritations of the mucous membrane of the intestinal canal, and that of the joints, is not less remarkable than what we have observed between the affections of the skin and mucous membrane of the intestinal tube. Let us consider the causes producing Rheumatism, and with this explanation, we will not be at a loss to account for its access.

“Acute Rheumatism, generally arises from the application of cold to the body, when any way unusually warm, or when one part of the body is exposed to cold, whilst the other parts are kept warm; or, lastly, when the application of the cold is long continued, as it is when wet or moist clothes are applied to any part of the body.”\* What is the primary action of cold, when applied to the surface? It checks perspiration, determines to the internal organs, and excites into action various predispositions, producing different diseases.—Where the rheumatic predisposition exists, cold having been applied to the surface of that kind, and to that degree, which is necessary to give rise to the disease, how are its effects produced? In the first place, the healthy transpiration being checked, a determination takes place to some portion of the digestive system, most generally to the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal, sometimes to other parts; this increased afflux of fluids to the part, induces some degree of inflammation or irritation, which in the second place, through the medium of the close sympathy which we have before stated to exist, affects the joints. The plan of treatment which,

\* Cullen.

under these circumstances, I propose is, in the first instance, to relieve the excitement of the system. Where considerable fever, with a full hard pulse exists by venesection and an active cathartic, after which I administer the Prickly Ash with a view to its sedative and diaphoretic operation. It has been customary in acute Rheumatism, to rely principally on large and repeated bleeding, at an early period, joined with the antiphlogistic regimen, and no doubt this evacuant plan of treatment has in some instances been carried to excess. Might not this article, from the peculiar influence which it exercises on the heart and arteries, be used with great advantage in the cure of the disease? employed after one or two bleedings, I have no doubt that it will prove highly serviceable, and render the repetition of venesection unnecessary. In support of my views, I give the following cases:

Simmons, from being heated and suddenly exposed to wet and cold, was seized with an attack of Lumbago and Sciatica; he was brought into the Hospital on the 5th day of October, under the following circumstances: Violent and constant pains in the loins and nates, which to use his own expression, resembled a tearing of his flesh; his tongue furred and white, bowels tolerably regular, pulse full and hard at about 100; no appetite. He had labored under the complaint for five days; under these circumstances, venesection was resorted to; sixteen ounces of blood were drawn in a large stream; this produced no other sensible effect, than reducing the pulse to a more natural standard; after waiting an hour, I administered at 9 o'clock, 3jj. of the tincture of the

*Aralia Spinosa* ; pain in the hip and lumbar region as violent as ever, pulse at 92. At 10 o'clock the pulse had sunk to 80, without any material change in the feelings of the patient—gave 5j. of the tincture. At 20 minutes past 10, pulse 84, he felt a prickly sensation all over his body, together with a shifting and shooting of his pains, which gradually extended down his legs, and were eventually fixed in his feet—perspiration profuse. At 11 o'clock, pains much easier, pulse 76—gave 5j. ; 25 minutes past 11. *pains entirely gone*;—perspiration still profuse ; 25 minutes past 12, “tired Nature’s sweet restorer balmy sleep,” which for several days and nights had forsaken his couch, came to his relief; I did not disturb him to repeat the medicine ; at 2 o'clock, I saw him again; he was still enjoying a tranquil sleep, pulse at 82, perspiration continuing : at 4 o'clock he awoke and said that he was entirely relieved from pain, though he felt somewhat debilitated. On the 6th of October, a slight return of pain in his feet ; repeated the medicine, giving 5j. every hour, which was followed by a reduction of the pulse, profuse perspiration, and an entire relief from pain which *never returned*. The affection was so severe, that for two weeks his lower extremities were paralysed.

Here was a case of acute Rheumatism, of the most obstinate kind, *relieved from pain in two hours and a half, and perfectly cured in twenty four hours*. I have never met, in the course of my reading, with any case, under any plan of treatment, in which the relief afforded was so *signal, immediate and effectual* ; the patient was so perfectly recovered from the paralysis of his lower extremities in the course of a fortnight ; that he took his dis-



charge and went to work, and as far as my knowledge extends, has had no return of the disease up to this date. In this case there existed every symptom of a disordered state of the alimentary canal, which as far as I could learn, preceded the appearance of pain and inflammation in the part afflicted. It would be impossible to explain the *modus operandi* of the medicine in this case on any other principle, than by referring it to some specific or peculiar action on the nervous sensibilities, hostile to the existence of the disease.

The effect of this remedy appears to me to be very similar to an article highly recommended in Thomas' Practice of Physic;\* it is a combination of nitre and cinchona. In order to be convinced of this, let us trace the action of the two remedies. According to my notion of Rheumatism, there exists in the alimentary canal, a peculiar species of derangement or morbid action, which is one of the chief constituents of the disease; the bark is calculated to give tone and strength to the digestive function, whereby it is enabled to overcome this morbid action, and by this means destroy the train of association which constitutes the disease. The nitre, by its sedative and diaphoretic influence, relieves the constriction on the surface, and promotes a free diaphoresis, which is the means pointed out by nature for effecting a cure. The *Aralia Spinosa*,† while by its stimulant impression, it counteracts the morbid derangement of the alimentary canal, by its powerful ten-

\* See page 226.

† It will be seen by a reference to some of the following cases, that the *Prickly Ash*, by its indirect effect, exercises considerable tonic influence on the system.

dency to the surface, and its sedative operation relieves the constriction of the capillaries, induces free diaphoresis, and speedily effects a cure of the disease. I do not attribute the remedial agency to any single property of the article, but rather to the happy result of the agency of its combined effects.

Whatever difference of opinion may exist, as to the propriety of the exhibition of this remedy in the acute stage of the disease, there can be little doubt of the advantage to be derived from its administration in the chronic forms of it. My experiments on this disease have been extensive, and I have never failed in effecting a cure in any instance, where I could prevail on the patient to persevere in its use; and in many cases, the benefit resulting from it have been marked and signal. I shall relate some of the most striking instances.

T. F. Quin, a man aged about forty-five years, habitually a subject of Rheumatism for ten years, was brought into the Alms House on the 17th of January, laboring under an attack, which had lasted upwards of two months. This was one of the severest he had ever had; various medicines had been taken without relief; he was in the height of the disorder; he complained of pains all over his body, particularly about the neck and shoulders, hands and knees; his hands and knees were much swollen, skin hot and dry, pulse quick and hard, bowels costive, tongue furred, no appetite; his hands and legs were perfectly useless, he was helpless as a child. On the 20th I gave him a cathartic; on the 21st commenced the use of the Prickly Ash—gave him

5th every second hour—his pulse at 34, pains still severe ; on the 22d, under the use of the medicine, his pulse had sunk to 34, skin moist, pains still severe, appetite very bad : 23d, same as yesterday ; 24th, a little improvement, swelling began to subside : 25th, swelling had subsided considerably, appetite returning slowly, pains much relieved, skin moist, and perspiration considerable ; 26th and 27th, left off the use of the medicine to see what effect it would produce ; 28th, patient much worse, skin hot and dry, pulse excited, swellings returned : 29th, recommenced its use : 30th, somewhat better, favorable symptoms returning. On the 3d of February, the patient had improved considerably ; his appetite returning, pains relieved, bowels soluble, with free diaphoresis ; he was able to sit up in bed with some ease and comfort ; the 6th, the patient still improving, and with assistance, was able to walk from his bed to a chair ; the 8th, still doing well, was able to walk without assistance across the room ; 11th, he took it into his head to leave the House, and though not entirely recruited, was pretty free from pain, and I have no doubt that had he continued the use of the medicine, he would have been entirely well in a week or ten days. I had occasion to remark in this case, as well as many others, that changes of weather produced no increase of pain in those who were under the influence of the medicine. In addition to the above plan of treatment, I used an ointment made from the Prickly Ash, (of which I shall say more hereafter,) as a local application.

Mrs. Kelly, an elderly lady, for many years a subject



of Rheumatism, had an attack in April, which lasted until September, when she applied to me. She had been under the treatment of a physician who had exhausted all his remedies without affording her any relief. When I first saw her, the pain was fixed in her shoulder: her left arm was useless—she could not lift it to her head; her pains were very severe, particularly on a sudden change of temperature; pulse excited, quick and corded; skin hot and dry, appetite feeble. I directed her to take 3j. of the tincture, three times a day, and to use the Ash ointment as a rubefacient. In the course of a week, she was considerably better, appetite improved; skin moist, pulse natural: after persevering in the use of the medicine one month, she was entirely cured, and capable of using her arms freely. She has never had any return of the complaint up to this date.

Beck, a maid servant belonging to Mrs. Prieleau, about 12 or 13 years of age, was seized about the beginning of November, with her old complaint, the rheumatism. It first attacked the back of her neck; nothing being done for her, it soon affected her head to such a degree that it rendered her almost delirious. When asked "what ailed her?" she would point to her head, cry out, throw her arms about in a frantic manner, and beg to be relieved. She was bled until these violent symptoms abated. A cathartic was then given her, and she fell asleep. For a week or two after this, she complained of pain in her head, but it was not very severe; a Dover's powder at night, Vol. Tinct. of Guaiac by day, and an occasional cathartic were the means relied

on for her cure. She was at length relieved : but she now complained of her arms, and it appeared that a metastasis of the disease had occurred. The same plan of treatment was continued ; and in a day or two, it again shifted to her knees. It was now about three weeks since she was first attacked, and all that she complained of, was her knees. Various rubefacients were applied to them, and the above internal remedies continued ; she soon lost the use of her legs. She was now in exactly the same state that she had been last year, when being under the care of an eminent physician, every remedial agent in his power had been tried in vain. She remained in this helpless condition, subject to an increase of pain, whenever the heavens lowered, until the commencement of warm weather, when by the use of the cold bath, she was gradually restored to health.

The accession of warm weather and the cold bath, were now Beck's only hope, when, luckily for her, I proposed to the gentleman who had her in charge, the propriety of giving the Prickly Ash a trial, which was acceded to. The state of the little sufferer at this time was truly deplorable ; in consequence of being compelled to sit and lie continually, her nates were completely raw. She was very much emaciated, having no desire for food ; thirst great ; pulse varying from 120 to 150 ; bowels costive. About the 15th of January, she commenced using the medicine. I directed a pap-spoonful of the tincture to be given three times a day, a flannel roller to be applied to her legs, while at the same time they were rubbed three times a day with the Ash ointment. The relief afforded in this case exceeded my ut-

most expectation; in the course of a week, her pulse became more natural, skin comfortable, and the medicine, by its indirect effect, acted as a powerful tonic. In three weeks from the time she commenced taking it, she was able to get up and walk; her bowels which were previously so costive as constantly to require the exhibition of some cathartic, were now kept in such good order as no longer to require any medicine—her appetite was increased ten-fold, and she has improved in every respect. It is a *singular fact*, that contrary to what had occurred on former occasions, *neither cloudy or rainy weather had the least influence in increasing her pains, after the first week of the administration of this remedy; and since the second, she has never had any return of pain.* She was unable to pass a good night's rest, unless a Dover's powder was given her at bed-time; but no complaint of bad nights' rest were made after the first two or three days of taking the Ash. The little patient was perfectly well in the course of four or five weeks, and has enjoyed good health up to this period.

I cannot avoid noticing a circumstance, which tends in some degree, to prove the propriety of my view of the pathology of Rheumatism. The secretion of the liver, in this case, appeared to be completely locked up; to which circumstance, may be attributed the obstinate costiveness which prevailed for a length of time previous to the administration of my remedy. On the fourth or fifth day of its use, she was taken with a diarrhoea, which lasted two or three days; after which the patient's bowels became regular. I attribute the

occurrence of the diarrhoea to the restoration of the secretion of the liver, through the agency of the Prickly Ash.

Castallo, a negro fellow belonging to Dr. Righton, from thirty-five to forty years of age, had been afflicted with Rheumatism about eight months : he was however, seized with an uncommonly severe attack about the 25th of July, while on Sullivan's Island. He was brought up to town in the steam boat, and when landed on the wharf, was so completely crippled that he was unable to walk ; his bowels were costive, tongue furred, pulse somewhat excited. His master having seen the success attending my plan of treatment, on a patient in the Hospital, requested me to give him some of the tincture ; which request being complied with, he commenced the use of the article without any previous depletion having been resorted to, and gave him  $\mathfrak{z}\text{iv}$ . at mid-day on the 26th, and repeated it at bed-time.—27th, to the astonishment of his master, when he called this morning he found the patient sitting up in bed, much relieved from pain, and capable of moving his limbs with freedom ; he directed him to take  $\mathfrak{z}\text{iv}$ . three times a day ; 28th, patient still improving, bowels regular, pulse more natural, perspiration considerable—continued the medicine as before ; 29th, the patient was so much relieved that he got up and walked about the yard, and has continued to mend ; previous to this attack, he had been treated with all the usual remedies generally resorted to for the cure of Rheumatism, but in no instance has he ever received such signal relief as in the present instance ; he was perfectly relieved in ten days.



F. L. Strobel, a young man of full plethoric habit, about twenty years of age, was seized on the 14th of March, 1822, with a violent attack of inflammatory Rheumatism. A physician was called, who adopted the following plan of treatment: Salts and tartar, together with the warm bath and volatile liniment. After continuing this treatment for a few weeks, the disorder yielded, although it never effected a perfect cure, for he was subject to the disease from time to time, though the paroxysms were not severe until the 28th of March, 1826, when he was again violently attacked. A physician was again called; the plan of treatment was the same as in 1822, with some little variation. The disorder instead of yielding to these measures, became more violent. Being present about the 7th day of the disease, and finding the inflammatory symptoms very high, with considerable determination to the head (his physician being out of town) I resorted to venesection; about twenty-four ounces of blood were drawn in a large stream, which relieved the patient considerably. His physician returning to town the next day, ordered nitrous powders and tinct. digitalis, which were continued for five or six days without affording any relief. About this time I proposed the use of the Prickly Ash in the form of tincture and ointment. I directed a table-spoonful of the tincture to be taken every second hour: whilst the parts affected, were rubbed three times a day with the Ash ointment. The relief was immediate, and the patient rapidly recovered. The effect upon the pulse was evident, and I have never seen a more powerful diaphoretic operation exhibited by any article. The patient was literally bath-

ed in perspiration, for three or four days, requiring his clothing to be shifted two or three times a day. He has had several attacks of the disease since, but it has always yielded in two or three hours to the use of this medicine. The patient is now in every respect less affected with Rheumatism than he has been for four years past.\*

Norton, an elderly man, about sixty years of age, a subject of Rheumatism for the last twenty years, has been troubled all the year round, but usually has a severe attack once a year, which lasts from six to eight months; for some days previous to the accession of the disease, symptoms of gastric disorder prevail, with loss

\* Since the above was put to press, this individual from exposure to wet, in addition to having taken off his flannel, had a return of his old complaint; he was taken with a violent paroxysm of acute Rheumatism on the 9th day of August—this attack was for several days preceded by symptoms of gastric disorder, such as slight nausea, loss of appetite, &c.; his first complaint of pain was referred to his loins and hip—it gradually shifted to different parts of his body; his hands, knees and shoulders were principally complained of; his skin was hot and dry; pulse full, hard and quick; bowels costive; tongue furred; there was a want of biliary secretion—under the usual plan of treatment I should have resorted to venesection, active catharsis and low diet. I however determined to give the Prickly Ash a fair trial and forthwith directed 1 drachm of the tincture to be given every hour in a little water. The administration was followed by the usual effects of the article; the patient's pulse became more natural; he was drenched with perspiration, and the secretion of the liver was restored; he had four or five bilious evacuations every 12 hours. On the 16th of August, notwithstanding that during the week, we had a continuation of unfavorable weather, it being wet, rainy and cloudy, the patient was entirely relieved from pain, and was walking about the house. He declares himself more perfectly satisfied with the value of the remedy, and is of opinion that he never has been so soon and effectually relieved by any plan of treatment which he has ever tried. This being a case of acute Rheumatism, ought in my arrangement, to have followed the case of Simmons, but that part of my work having been struck off, I have introduced it in this place. This case, and that of Simmons, go far in proving, the correctness of the plan of treatment which I have suggested in Acute Rheumatism. I am more fully convinced by every day's experience, that depletion by catharsis and blood-letting, is in most cases of Acute Rheumatism, pushed too far, not that I would undervalue those remedial agents, believing as I do, that in many cases they are imperiously demanded.

of appetite and fever : he is able (using his expression) to drag about for three or four days after the appearance of these premonitory symptoms, when his pains become so severe that he is compelled to keep his bed. His bowels are costive, with a want of biliary secretion ; he has always had medical attendance during his sickness, but it availed him little : his disease continuing until it gradually wore itself out. In the present instance, he was taken about the commencement of spring in the usual way ; he was attended by a respectable physician for several months, who failed in his attempt to cure the disease. The patient being helpless and unable to work, was compelled to take refuge in the Alms House, where I saw him for the first time, on the 1st of August ; he then complained of pain in the back, knees and feet, which was very severe—he was unable to walk : his bowels were costive, tongue furred, pulse quick and hard, skin hot and dry ; there being considerable febrile excitement, I took about ten or twelve ounces of blood from his arm, and commenced the use of the Prickly Ash ; directed ʒj. to be taken every hour : the effect of the remedy for the first three or four days was to open his bowels four or five times a day—his evacuations being bilious, after which they were kept regular ; his skin was continually moistened with perspiration ; after the third day, he began to improve, the violence of his pain having subsided, though there was considerable soreness in the parts affected. A spell of bad weather which we had about this time, affected him less than usual, as he still continued to mend. On the 14th the soreness left

him, and all that he now complained of was a weakness of his back. This individual had been so long and severely affected, that he had nodes on different parts of of his limbs with chalky deposits in the joints of his toes. He was relieved in fourteen days. He declares that he never was so speedily relieved by any medicine which he had ever taken; under the usual mode of treatment, he calculated that his disease would have continued for two months longer.

I could relate many other cases of the successful application of the *Aralia Spinosa* to the cure of Rheumatism, equally as striking, but deem the above sufficient to prove the applicability of this remedy to the cure of the disease.

If all diseases consisted simply of an increase or diminution of the healthy action of the system, the science of medicine would be reduced to a few simple rules; and the only articles requisite for a *Materia Medica*, would be the lancet and a bottle of Alcohol. With these implements properly directed, the practitioner of medicine might go forth the triumphant vanquisher of disease—but the fact is otherwise; in addition to the increase or diminution of vascular action *every disease has superadded its own specific morbid action*, and herein consists the great art of the science of healing—the ability to discover the indication of disease, and the application of the most suitable means to answer that indication. With this view of the general nature of disease, I have no hesitation in saying, that the Prickly Ash, properly administered, is better adapted to the cure of Rheumatism, than any agent with which I am acquainted.



As a rubefacient, I am equally confident of its success, having used it in many cases with decided advantage. I give the following as specimens :

Mrs. S—, a lady affected with this complaint on every change of weather, had an attack which lasted for six days, without any intermission ; for four nights she had not slept. I directed her to rub with the Ash Ointment three times a day. She tried it for the first time, on going to bed ; she awoke the next morning, after a good night's rest, perfectly free from pain. She has had one or two slight attacks since, but is always relieved in a few hours by resorting to the same means.

Mrs. B—, a lady, who from exposure, had taken cold in the face, which was much swollen and exceedingly painful ; she had not slept for several nights. On the first night of using the Ointment, she slept remarkably well, and in forty-eight hours was perfectly cured.

Mrs. C—d, an elderly lady, long afflicted with a rheumatic pain in her left shoulder, had taken various medicines, and used a great many local applications without the slightest intermission of pain. She had given up all hope of ever being relieved, when I persuaded her to try the Prickly Ash Ointment : in the course of a fortnight she was cured, and has had no return of pain. She was so much pleased with the remedy that she has recommended it to several others, who have all tried it with equal advantage.

Mrs. C—n, a lady who for several days had complained of pains in various parts of the body, used the Ointment once, and has not found it necessary to repeat it.

The Ointment does not produce any very sensible irritation, but occasions a slight itching after rubbing for some time. As regards the rationale of its operation, it may be referred to some peculiar action on the nerves.

A warm bath, made with a strong decoction of the bark of the root, will be found an excellent adjuvant; it induces a tendency to the surface, and effects a powerful diaphoresis. In two cases where I used it, the patients sweated profusely for several hours, and were beyond a doubt, much relieved.

As nearly allied to chronic Rheumatism, I have used this article in the secondary forms of Syphilis, with considerable advantage.

Wilson, had been affected with Pseudo Syphilis for upwards of eight months, which had baffled all the various articles supposed to be efficacious in curing this form of disease. He was put under my treatment about this time. I directed a decoction of Sarsaparilla and Nitric acid to be administered in the usual form and dose, which not producing the desired effect, I altered the prescription, giving in lieu of the nitric acid, the corrosive muriate; this not proving advantageous, the creta and other narcotics were in turn substituted. The use of each article was persevered in a sufficient length of time to test their efficacy, and were finally all omitted, as he appeared to get worse. I prescribed nothing but *Opium* and the *Pulvis Doveri* for some time to relieve his pains, indulging the hope that nature might do something towards effecting a cure. This hope was also disappointed. As a dernier resort, I at length determined to give

him the Prickly Ash. The following is a history of his situation when I commenced giving it :

He had been confined to his bed for nine months, being unable to walk ; his fingers, hands, elbows, knees and feet were much swollen ; he had a number of nodes on the tibia ; his appetite was feeble, body much emaciated. ʒj. of the tinct. *Aralia Spinosa* was given him every second hour, and he was rubbed three or four times a day with the ointment. The effect was surprising ; his pains were speedily relieved ; in the course of a month he was able to leave his bed, and walked from the Alms House to the Exchange, and returned ; the swelling of his joints and the nodes on his shins had entirely disappeared ; appetite good, and the patient's general health much improved. Believing (as he did not appear to mend very fast) that his system had become habituated to the use of the medicine, I ordered it to be discontinued for a few weeks, in order that when I recommenced its use at the end of that time, it might produce its effect more fully and in smaller doses. About three weeks after its omission, in passing through the Hospital, I observed the patient sitting in the draft of a window, on a very wet, disagreeable day, eating *raw onions* and other indigestible articles of food. I told him he ought to be very careful in regard to his diet, and to avoid exposure. My admonition came too late—he was taken the next day with an indomitable diarrhoea, which finally carried him off. I attribute the access of this complaint to the following circumstances :

In the first place, the articles eaten were of themselves sufficient to excite great irritation in the alimentary ca-

nal, and thus produce diarrhoea. In the second place, when we superadd to this, the action of moist cold upon the surface, determining the fluids to the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal, we may readily discover the exciting cause of the disease. Had the *Vis Vitæ* been capable of reacting upon the irritation of the alimentary canal; Rheumatism would have been developed: as it was, the system being prostrated, was unable to sustain the conflict. Had he but exercised common prudence, this individual might, in the course of a month or two, have been restored to society, a useful member.

Hollin, a patient in the Alms House, came in on the — day of June; he had been sick one week previous to his being admitted. Vol. Tinct. of Guaiac and the Dover's powders were immediately given him, and continued for three weeks without producing any effect upon the disease; the patient was then transferred to me. I took charge of him on the morning of the 22nd of July; the state of his complaint was as follows: Violent pain extending from his shoulders to his hands, and from his knees to his feet; his right hand and wrist in particular, were so much swollen and so sensible, that on touching them to feel his pulse, he cried out in agony; he was unable to move his right hand without the aid of his left. At 10 o'clock, A. M., I commenced with the tincture *Aralia Spinosa*; ʒiv. were administered every third hour; it did not affect his pulse as much as usual, but sweated him profusely. When I saw him at 6 o'clock P. M., his right hand and arm were so much relieved, that he shook them violently in order that I might judge of the advantage which he had received from this medicine, in so



short a space of time; he was able to clasp his hands over his head. On the 23rd, his pains were much abated; I continued the medicine for four days, at the end of which time, he was able to stand and walk, and his general health was very rapidly improving -- I now discontinued it for three days; as soon as the medicine was omitted, he became much worse, and was almost as bad as ever, at the end of that time. I recommenced it on the fourth day, and it produced as remarkable an effect as it had at first done. In three days more, or on the 11th day of treatment, the patient was perfectly free from pain, the nodes on his shins had disappeared, and he obtained permission to go out; he went out and walked round the city, and returned in the evening. On the 4th of August, it being a very damp, disagreeable day, I saw the patient walking about the Hospital with no clothes on except his shirt and drawers. I ordered him to bed, and upon enquiry, found that without my permission, he had discontinued his medicine for two days. On the 5th of August, he had a relapse, and was as bad as he ever had been, all his pains and swellings having returned. I ordered the medicine to be taken in the same doses as before. On the 13th of August, the patient had again gradually mended—he was able to walk about, and was rapidly improving, having no remnant of his complaint, but a slight soreness of his shins.

The Ash Ointment was resorted to as a local application. This individual after taking the medicine for two or three days was covered with a pustular eruption, which bore a strong resemblance to those which

follow the use of Tartar Emetic Ointment; they disappeared at the end of three weeks.

The article has been applied to several other forms of disease with equal success. I have effectually relieved two obstinate cases of Hemi-crania, and have used it in a case of Palsy with partial advantage. The history of the case is as follows :

Milligan, admitted into the Alms House in August, after having been palsied for eight months. It was impossible to discover the cause of the disease ; the patient himself was disposed to attribute it to his having taken cold while under the influence of an alterant course of Calomel. Be that as it may, his extremities were completely paralysed ; his hands were so firmly clinched that they could not be opened, though considerable force was exerted ; the use of various narcotics, and among them Nux Vomica and Cicuta were persevered in for some length of time, without producing any advantage. At his own solicitation, he was put on the use of the Prickly ash ; 3jj. of the tincture were administered every hour, while at the same time his extremities were rolled in flannel and rubbed frequently with the Ash Ointment. This plan of treatment was continued for one month, when the contraction had abated so much that his hands were opened, and Pemberton's splint applied, which, together with a continuation of the above treatment, has restored the patient to the use of them. Finding that during the cold weather, which now set in, the patient did not improve any, I left off the medicine, as his system had become habituated to it. I recommenced it a short

time since, but cannot say that it has been attended with beneficial results.

It only remains for me to state the manner of obtaining the plant, and the mode of preparing the medicine.

The plant may be obtained in almost any section of the Southern States; near the city of Charleston, it grows very luxuriantly on the embankment of ditches round our farms. It will be found most efficacious when gathered in the fall. The most active parts of the plant are the bark of the root, and the ripe berries.

The manner of preparing the Tincture, is as follows : Take of the bark of the root, recently obtained, or of the berries bruised in a mortar, four ounces to a pint; allow it to digest in Alcohol eight or ten days, when it will be fit for use. The Ointment is made by putting four ounces of the recent bark into a pound of lard which melt, and allow to boil over a fire for half an hour or longer; strain, and allow it to cool for use.

In stating my experiments, I have endeavored to avoid an error into which most persons presenting a new remedy to public notice, are prone to fall. It is that of over-rating their success, and the value of the article.

Most of my experiments were conducted in the Hospital attached to the Poor House, in the presence of the gentlemen who are in the daily habit of visiting it.

I trust that ere long, this plant will be received into general practice, and I am confident that it needs only to be tried and known, for it to be justly appreciated, and its reputation established beyond a doubt. Should

it (as I hope it may) become means of alleviating some portion of the suffering humanity, I shall consider myself singularly fortunate, (under the direction of Providence) in having been the instrument of presenting it to the world.

It is to be regretted that our native plants have not been more sought after, and their properties explored. "Our gardens abound with exotics, while the native productions of our clime are left to pine in their neglected solitude." I know of no subject which ought to interest an American physician so much, or which is so likely to prove beneficial to mankind as an enquiry into the properties of our native medical plants. The garnerers of the old world have been so long and repeatedly ransacked that there is little probability of their discovering any article calculated to reduce the long list of the *Opprobria Medicorum*. Nature has cast the New World in her largest mould, and the diseases of the country correspond in some degree with her proportions. It is a wise decree of Providence, that where great natural evils exist; nature also provides the means of counteracting or palliating those ills. There may now bloom upon the summit of some towering cliff, or on the banks of the innumerable streams which intersect our country many a plant, rich in healing balm, "that wastes its sweetness on the desert air." If such be the fact, where can we find a nobler field to incite us to action, or to reward our toil? "That a prophet is not without honor save in his own country and among his own people," was the lamentation of the Redeemer himself and has impeded the march



of science even in Italy. For this cause more than the want of genius, our country cannot boast of as many bright stars in the literary world, as those in which encouragement is given, and even many ~~of those~~ of which we do boast, are compelled to seek in foreign climes, that support which is denied them at home. We have yet to learn the art of husbanding our resources.—Wealth to the man of genius, is like wings to the eagle, by the aid of which he soars aloft in the rich regions of fancy, while the poor man of genius, like an eagle whose pinions are clipt, stalks on the earth, and instead of soaring among his native clouds, is obliged to pick a scanty sustenance in the valley below. We seldom find things of value in originally exalted stations. We generally find the diamond hidden in rubbish, and gold in the bosom of the earth. So is it with man. The brightest genius is often found locked in the cold and icy embrace of poverty; and wants, but some fostering hand to clear away the dross and rubbish which surrounds him, and to present him to the world a bright and precious jewel. “Nature throws the seeds of genius to the winds, and many of them are lost in the stoney places of the world, or their growth impeded by early adversity”.—Talents are always interesting; they glow in a peculiar manner, when exhibited by the neglected emigrant, but cease to charm when possessed by our acquaintance. This prejudice is peculiarly hard and unjust in its operation in relation to the medical practitioner, brought up at home, where can a man be better taught and qualified, than in the country, and among the very people where he

intends practising? What place the diseases of our climate in a Paris or London Hospital. It is to be hoped that the success attending the introduction of Medical Schools among us, will in time do away this prejudice. Unless we support our own institutions, science must flag, and every attempt to increase our literary standing must fail. Many difficulties beset our way in the pursuit of an arduous profession. Amidst this devious prospect, we have one bright star to lead us on ; it is the pleasurable anticipation of our exertions for the benefit of mankind, being crowned with success. Son of science, be not disheartened, though the world may deny thee while living thy just reward, thy honors shall gather in rich clusters around thy tomb. "THOU HAST CAST THY BREAD UPON THE WATERS AND SHALT FIND IT AFTER MANY DAYS."











